

# Editorial

## Year 2002: Submission Options Streamlined

**T**HE IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS (TNN) will see exciting changes in 2002. As most authors have probably noticed, the time between the submission and print has been significantly reduced over the last year or two. This is partially due to a more efficient review process that we now have in place, and partially due to the shortened queue of papers that have been accepted and are waiting for print. Authors will be pleased to know that accepted TNN papers are published typically within three to five months after they are submitted in the final form, while 11 weeks of this time is the average length of the production stage.

This year will undoubtedly bring new momentum to the review process and it will also offer a much more convenient submission option for the authors. Beginning in January 2002, the authors can choose between the submission of papers for review via our dedicated website, and the usual submission of six hard copies of their manuscripts. Under the first option, the authors will need to fill out a form at <http://www.ieee-nnc.org/pubs/tnn/submit-paper.php> and submit their papers as attachments. We hope that this electronic submission will not only accelerate the review process by making it entirely electronic, but also that the cost and overall overhead when dealing with the distribution of manuscripts will be significantly reduced.

Papers will be accepted for review only in printable PDF format, and the specially prepared TNN website will guide the authors through the submission process. The design of the site will help us avoid incompatibilities between certain fonts in submissions and the software that prints them. Such incompatibilities typically plague many similar conversions, and we hope to have taken steps to prevent them. Related excerpts from the Information for Authors follow.

### **Submission for Review: Papers in Electronic Format via the Website**

Create a single PDF file for your complete paper, including figures and bibliography. Make sure that it is 1) printable and 2) the first page contains title, authors' names and the corresponding author's e-mail address, abstract, and keywords. Paper file in PDF format as well as data about the paper and the authors should be submitted using an online form at <http://www.ieee-nnc.org/pubs/tnn/submit-paper.php>. Note that copyright forms, biographical sketches, and authors' photos should be excluded from initial submissions and not transmitted until the paper is accepted. Authors are also requested to avoid parallel e-mail submissions of manuscripts to the TNN Editorial Office, as well as multiple submissions of the same paper via online form. Also, to avoid duplication and unnecessary delays, no hard copies of papers should be mailed to the Editor of this TRANSACTIONS by those authors who have chosen to submit papers in electronic format.

Also starting January 2002, Briefs will no longer be accepted for review. Papers and Letters will then be the only categories for publishable manuscripts. Briefs submitted by December 31, 2001 will be handled normally until phased out.

The year 2002 will see a Special Issue on Intelligent Multimedia Processing tentatively scheduled for May. Also, papers are solicited for the Special Issue on Hardware Implementation with Bernabe Linares-Barranco, Giacomo Indiveri, Andreas G. Andreou, and Tadashi Shibata as Guest Editors. (See this issue for the announcement.)

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the Associate Editors and reviewers for their qualified and timely help. I also take pleasure in thanking authors, subscribers, and readers for their continued loyalty. Their further support is appreciated.